

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 FBOE-00 A-01
PC-01 AID-05 /029 W
-----124688 281433Z /53
R 280929Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 074

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 12840

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: MSG DETACHMENT--LILONGWE

REF: A. LILONGWE 1363; B. NAIROBI 11961

1. THROUGH OVERSIGHT WE FAILED TO INCLUDE LILONGWE AS
ADDRESSEE OF REFTEL B WHICH IS REPEATED HEREIN.

BEGIN QUOTE

2. RSO DURFEY AND RSS GARRETT JUST COMPLETED INSPECTION
OF SY PROGRAM LILONGWE IN WHICH POST HAS EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A MSG DETACHMENT TO PROVIDE
24 HOUR SENTRY AT ONE POST IN CHANCERY BUILDING.

3. WHILE CHARGE AND OTHER POST OFFICIALS ENDORSE THE
PROPOSAL, THE DECISION TO FORMALLY
EQUEST A DETACHMENT
WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
HARDOL HORAN WHO IS CURRENTLY IN THE DEPARTMENT. PURPOSE
OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT DEPARTMENT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS
SINCE THIS MAY AFFORD OPPORTUNE TIME FOR SY TO INCLUDE THE
MSG PROGRAM IN THEIR BRIEFING OF AMBASSADOR HORN.

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4. THREAT ANALYSIS AND POLIT CAL SITUATION REFLECTED
IN THE 1977 COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY SURVEY END RSO
MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS IS STILL VALID. WHILE THIS
INDICATES A RELATIVELY STABLE COUNTRY WITH LESS
LIKELIHOOD FOR TERRORIST ACTS OR OTHER FORMS OF
VIOLENCE, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS THAT
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED RELATIVE TO A DETACHMENT

BEING ESTABLISHED IN LILONGWE.

(A) POST CURRENTLY HAS A STAFF OF 17 AMERICANS WITH PEACE CORPS AND USAID PROGRAMMED FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

(B) THE DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT GROUP, CONSISTING OF 3 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES HAVE FACILITIES LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHANCERY BUILDING. WHILE THIS IS A CONTROLLED AND LIMITED ACCESS AREA (CLEARED AMERICANS AND ESCORTED VISITORS), THE SUPPORT GROUP IS OPERATING ON-LINE KW-7S WITHIN A SHIELDED ENCLOSURE. WHILE ACCESS TO THIS OPERATION IS SAFEGUARDED BY A SOLID CORE WOOD DOOR AND HIGH SECURITY LOCKS, IT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE VAULT CONTAINING ON-LINE CRU-DTS OPERATIONS. OBVIOUSLY, PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR THE DOD SUPPORT GROUP TO BE LOCATED WITHIN A VAULT AND/OR 24 HOUR CONTROL BY CLEARED AMERICANS.

(C) AFTER HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS, A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD IS POSTED INSIDE THE CHANCERY, BUT RESTRICTED TO THE LOBBY AREA ONLY.

(D) POST IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF INSTALLING A BALLISTIC ARMORED BOOTH FOR THE RECEPTIONIST AND A SEPARATE BOOTH FOR SERVICING VISA APPLICANTS, BOTH FACED WITH 1 1/4" LEXGUARD AND 1/4" SAFETY GLASS.
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(E) A SCREENING, WITHD AND HACKAGE INSPECTION AREA WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT ENTRANCE TO CHANCERY BUILDING.

(F) SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS BY BUREAU, FBO END SY HAS BEEN APPRECIATED. AS A RESULT, THESE POSITIVE ACTIONS REFLECT POST'S CONCERN WITH MEETING THE MINIMUM SY STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS, AND IN PARTICULAR, THE INTEREST OF THE ADMIN/PSO MICHAEL HINTON IN ADMINISTERING A VIABLE SY PROGRAM.

5. ADMIN ADVISES THAT A 5-6 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR DETACHMENT COULD BE BUILT AS WELL AS A 3 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR THE NCOIC AT A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$200,000. THIS COULD BE A ONE-TIME EXPENDITURE SINCE ABOVE COSTS INCLUDE USG OWNERSHIP OF HOUSES AND LAND. EMBASSY CURRENTLY HOLDS OPTION TO PURCHASE LOT ADJACENT TO CHANCERY BUILDING. CONSTRUCTION TIME ESTIMATED AT 6-8 MONTHS, OR ABOUT THE LEAD TIME REQUIRED TO PROVIDE MARINES IF APPROVAL WAS OBTAINED. SINCE THIS IS A NEW CAPITOL, RENTAL PROPERTY IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

6. POST OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE

ANY OBJECTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH CHARGE
EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS F MARINES WERE IN UNIFORM.

WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO POST THAT MARINES SHOULD BE IN
UNIFORM AND ARMED IF THEY ARE TO SERVE A VALID PURPOSE
IN LILONGWE.

7. RSO AND RSS SUPPORT POST INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING
A DETACHMENT. WHILE WE HAVE BRIEFED POST OFFICIALS ON
REQUIREMENTS, WE WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH WRITTEN GUIDELINES
FOR THEIR USE F ADDRESSEES AND THE AMBASSADOR REACT
FAVORABLY TO THESE INITIAL DISCUSSIONS. END QUOTE

8. AS POST WILL RECALL DURING DISCUSSION WITH
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SS/RSO
LILONGWE WOULD NOT STAND NO. 1 ON A LIST FOR MSG DETACH-
MENTS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE LEFT WITH VIVID IMPRESSION
THAT POST WANTED MATTER DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
HORAN, IT WAS AGREED THAT RSS SHOULD FORWARD MESSAGE TO
A/SY. THUS, REFTEL B WAS SUBMITTED.

9. WHILE RSS IS POSITIONED SOMEWHERE IN MIDDLE OF ALL
THIS, MY INTEREST IS TO ASSIST POST ON SY MATTERS. PROVIDING
REPLACEMENTS FOR MARINES CURRENTLY ON THE PROGRAM IS
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, MUCH LESS ESTABLISHING NEW DETACH-
MENTS.

10. OUR POSITION IS THAT LILONGWE IS A RELATIVELY SMALL
POST WITH GOOD PHYSICAL FEATURES AND AN ABSENCE OF
HOSTILE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OR TERRORIST THREATS.
NEVERTHELESS, OUR POLICY IS TO FAVOR MSGS ALL EMBASSIES,
BASED ON THE VERY NATURE OF THE OPERATIONS.
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Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: ASEC
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